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Conservation Commission Minutes 12/06/2007

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES DECEMBER 6, 2007

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Ellen Reed, Catherine Garnett, Tim Sullivan of the Commission as was Associate Member Ezra Benjamin. William O'Rourke of the Commission was not in attendance. Patsy Kraemer, Paul Tammaro, Kathy Leva, Maureen Copithorne, Brian Rehrig, Stephen Makowka, were present for the discussion of Cookes Hollow. Kristoff Erkilejian and Bill Reed were present to discuss the house at Mt. Gilboa.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

Sullivan/White motioned to approve the reimbursement of \$357.10 to Ms. Beckwith for office supplies; motion passed unanimously.

White/Tirone motioned to approve the 10/18/07 minutes; motion passed unanimously.

White/Tirone motioned to approve the 2008 meeting schedule with a few alterations; motion passed unanimously.

The MACC's environmental bond bill to acquire money for land acquisition for preservation of open space, support is needed.

The bikepath was plowed and parts were sanded (from Lake St to Alewife station) but no haybales or erosion controls were installed.

The siltfence was installed at 17 Mill Lane, but on the other side of the fence. This needs to be monitored.

The erosion controls at Winchester Country Club are installed for the work on the new sewer line.

7:45 pm – WORKING SESSION - Cookes Hollow

The Garden Club and the Cemetery Expansion committee both wish to coordinate with the Conservation Commission on the project to improve and restore the park at Cookes Hollow.

The Request for Proposals document is currently being drafted. One idea might include daylighting of Mill Brook above the current water falls.

The Cemetery meeting attended by Mr. White and Mr. Sullivan and Ann LeRoy discussed a stone wall with cremains and plaques. Its not clear who would approve the project, the Conservation Commission or Town Meeting.

Brian Rehrig proposed the idea of a memorial grove that was once proposed at the Symmes property. He has details of this proposal at home.

Ms. Kraemer suggested applying for additional CDBG monies in March, since there are a long list of wants/needs.

8pm –WORKING SESSION– Mt. Gilboa house

Mr. Erkilejian is proposing to install alternative energy systems at the house, converting it to a two family residence, living onsite and having it open as a demonstration house.

Bill Reed cautioned that the site might not be suitable for a geothermal system.

Ms. Garnett asked whether any of this work could be done since the house was within the Historic District. A member of the Historic Commission was present and said that the proposal would have to undergo review.

Mr. Erkilejian said that he was going to present his proposal to the Town Manager since he manages the house for the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Reed asked if it was feasible to install a wind turbine atop the proposed silo on the site, whether this needed a zoning permit review. The site should have a view access on top to take advantage of the viewscape. This would need zoning review.

Mr. Erkilejian asked to return to the Commission to present additional information, after meeting with the Town Manager.

COMMISSION BUSINESS (cont.)

Mr. Rehrig presented an update on the work by the Arlington Land Trust to purchase Elizabeth Island for permanent protection as open space.

The trees planted at the Arlington Reservoir were inspected by Ms. Garnett and Mr. O'Rourke and they found that some trees had been moved in order to allow for DPW trucks and maintenance access.

A Vortech unit was installed at 42 Brattle St and Brattle Court.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator